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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/925,960	08/10/2001	Koji Shibata	041514-5136	4410

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EXAMINER

CHAWAN, VIJAY B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2654

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/925,960

Applicant(s)

SHIBATA ET AL.

Examiner

Vijay B. Chawan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,9 and 11-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,9,11-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 9 10-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koyata et al., (6,622,158) in view of Trower, II et al., (5,983,190).

As per claim 1, Koyata et al., teach a method of displaying character information together with a synthesized sound, the character information being associated with a tag, the method comprising the steps of:

(A) recognizing the tag associated with the character information (Col.10, lines 42-51);

(B) displaying the character information on a screen after the tag is recognized in step A (Col.2, lines 42-43);

(C) comparing the tag recognized in step A with a predetermined tag (Col.10, lines 42-51); and,

(D) producing a sound from the character information for a predetermined period while the character information is displayed on the screen if the two tags match in step (C), and not producing any sound from the character information while the character

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information is being displayed on the screen when the two tags do not match in step C (Col.10, lines 52-59).

However Koyata et al., do not specifically teach producing a synthesized sound from the character information for a predetermined period while the character information is displayed on the screen if the two tags match in step (C), and not producing any sound from the character information while the character information is being displayed on the screen when the two tags do not match in step C. Trower, II et al., do teach producing a synthesized sound from a character (Col.23, lines 45-60).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate synthesizing sounds as per Trower, II et al., in the method of Koyata et al., because it would be advantageous this can include an interactive character simply by adding a reference to the agent server and high level script commands that specify input for the character and request playback of animation and lip-synched speech to animate the character (Trower, II et al., Col.3, lines 15-19).

As per claim 9, Koyata et al., teach the method of displaying character information together with a synthesized sound according to claim 1, wherein the character information reserved by the recognized tag is displayed on the screen (Col.10, lines 52-59).

As per claim 11, Koyata et al., teach the method of displaying character information together with a synthesized sound according to claim 1, wherein the tag includes a pair of symbols such as < and >, and indication bracketed by the pair of symbols (Col.16, lines 18-22).

As per claim 12, Koyata et al., teach the method of displaying character information together with a synthesized sound according to claim 11, further including the steps of:

(E) recognizing a content of the indication in the tag; (F) comparing the content of the indication recognized in step (E) with a content of predetermined indication; and, (G) starting or ending production of the synthesized sound when the two contents match in step (F) (Col.15, lines 1-17).

As per claim 13, Koyata et al., teach the method of displaying character information together with a synthesized sound according to claim 11, further including the steps of:

(H) comparing the indication in the tag with a predetermined indication on the basis of a predetermined logic condition (Col.15, lines 44-57); and

(I) starting or ending production of the synthesized sound when the predetermined logic is met as a result of the comparison in step (H) (Col.15, lines 44-57).

As per claim 14, Koyata et al., teach a method of producing a synthesized sound from a transmitted information, said transmitted information including a pair of symbols such as < and >, control information bracketed in said pair of symbols, and display information associated with a combination of said pair of symbols and control information, said method comprising the steps of:

(A) recognizing said pair of symbols (Col.16, lines 18-22);

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(B) comparing the control information in said pair of symbols recognized in step A with predetermined control information (Col.16, lines 18-22, 49-58); and,

(C) producing a synthesized sound from the display information when the two control information match in step (B) (Col.16, lines 18-22, 49-58).

As per claim 15, Koyata et al., teach the method of claim 14, further including the step of displaying the display information on a screen, regardless of a comparison result of (B) (Col.11, line 54 – Col.12, line 3).

As per claim 16, Koyata et al., teach the method according to claim 14, wherein the display information includes at least one word (Col.11, line 54 – Col.12, line 3).

As per claim 17, Koyata et al., teach a method of producing a synthesized sound from a transmitted information, said transmitted information including a pair of symbols such as < and >, first control information bracketed in said first pair of symbols, a second pair of symbols such as < and>, second pair of symbols, and display information sandwiched between said first pair of symbols bracketing said first control information and said second pair of symbols bracketing said second control information, said method comprising the steps of:

(A) recognizing said first pair of symbols; (B) comparing the first control information in said first pair of symbols recognized in step (A) with predetermined first control information; and, (C) starting production of a synthesized sound from the display information when the first control information and the predetermined control information match in step (B) (Col.12, lines 59-67, Col.13, lines 1-5).

However, Koyata et al., do not specifically teach the production of a synthesized sound from the display. Trower, II et al., do teach producing a synthesized sound from a character (Col.23, lines 45-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate synthesizing sounds as per Trower, II et al., in the method of Koyata et al., because it would be advantageous this can include an interactive character simply by adding a reference to the agent server and high level script commands that specify input for the character and request playback of animation and lip-synched speech to animate the character (Trower, II et al., Col.3, lines 15-19).

As per claim 18, Koyata et al., teach the method according to claim 17, further including the steps of:

(D) recognizing said second pair of symbols after step (C) (Col.16, lines 18-29);

(E) comparing the second control information in said second pair of symbols recognized in step (D) with predetermined second control information (Col.16, lines 49-67); and,

(F) stopping production of synthesized sound from the display information when the two second control information match in step (E) (Col.16, lines 49-67).

As per claim 19, Koyata et al., teach the method according to claim 18, displaying the display information on a screen, regardless of a comparison result of step (B) (Col.11, line 54 – Col.12, line 3).

As per claim 20, Koyata et al., teach the method of claim 18, wherein the display information includes at least one word (Col.11, line 54 – Col.12, line 3).

Claims 21-24 are similar in scope and content of method claims 1, 9, 11-24, and are rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,9, 11-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vijay B. Chawan whose telephone number is (571) 272-7601. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Friday 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (571) 272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Vijay B. Chawan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2654

vbc
2/4/06